

BOILER BURSTS AND KILLS SIX ON ERIE BARGE

Explosion Blows Victims to Pieces While Newly-Repaired Craft Is Lying in Dry Dock Basin at Hoboken.

THE DEAD.
DYER, JOHN, twenty-four years old, No. 502 Fifteenth street, Hoboken.
GIBBONS, C. A., colored, engineer of the barge, of Boston.
HERCHE, EDWARD, thirty years old, No. 423 New York avenue, West Hoboken.
HOPKINS, MARTIN W., of Boston, captain of the barge.
FITZSIMMONS, LARRY, thirty-six years old, No. 1831 Park avenue, Hoboken.
NEIS, CLAUDE, twenty-two years old, No. 334 Central avenue, West Hoboken.

A boiler explosion on board the Erie Railroad coal barge Paterson, at the foot of Seventeenth street, Hoboken, to-day blew six men into eternity in the twinkling of an eye.
Two others were injured. One of them, Oliver Bugthon, of Winthrop, Mass., is in St. Mary's Hospital, Hoboken, with about an even chance for recovery. His skull is fractured.
The bodies of the men who met their death in the explosion were terribly mangled.
Mrs. Hopkins, the wife of the captain, was standing just outside of the door of the little cabin, away aft, where she and her husband and their young son lived when she heard the deafening roar as the boiler gave way. The forward deck rose, burst open and dropped, a mass of crumpled splinters into the hold, the stubby masts fell overboard and Mrs. Hopkins, knocked senseless against the door of the cabin, revived in a moment, to find the remains of her husband, blackened and blistered, almost within reach of her hand.

George Hopkins, the young son of the captain, had just left the barge for a row on the river. He was less than one hundred yards away when the explosion occurred.

Mechanics Were Victims.
With the exception of Hopkins and Gibbons, who were regularly attached to the barge, the dead men were mechanics and machinists' helpers in the employ of Tietjen & Lang, the owners of the ship-yard in which the Erie was lying. Brighton, the injured man, was a member of the crew. Herche was a student in the Civil Engineering Department of the Stevens Institute, in Hoboken, and was spending his vacation at practical work in the establishment.

Those who adhere to the theory that the boiler was being tested point to the fact that four machinists and helpers employed by Tietjen & Lang were in the little boiler-room when the boiler gave way. In all there were seven men in the room, and only one, Brighton, escaped death.

The shock of the explosion was felt all over Hoboken, Weehawken and West New York. It jarred every building in the Tietjen & Lang plant and sent the employees scattering to the open air.

No time was lost in organizing a gang to go aboard the Paterson to rescue the injured. Robert Wright, a machinist's helper, led the rescuers. Groping through the smoke, steam and wreckage, they came first upon Brighton and carried him to the pier.

Hopkins, the dead skipper of the barge, was found in New York and Boston shipping circles. He was in the business of transporting coal from this city to Boston for many years.

Because of the contradictory reports concerning the cause of the explosion a special effort was made to determine to gather up all the pieces of the wrecked boiler. The crown sheet was found intact and was made. The safety valves should have loosened at the explosion, and the explosion followed. Brighton, the injured man, is unconscious. It is a question if he ever will be able to talk and to walk.

The fatal boiler was small. Force was added to the explosion by a small area, as the engine room was an enclosed space not more than twelve feet square.

Safety Valve Failed.
The crown sheet was not burned in the explosion, experts said. It was not water in the boiler was not dangerous. After the crown sheet discovery, another story of the explosion was sent out from the shipyard.

The boiler was carrying 120 pounds of steam. It was supposed to be 150 pounds, but it was not tested above 30 pounds after the repairs were made. The safety valves should have loosened at the explosion, and the explosion followed.

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EVENING WORLD RACE CHART TWELFTH DAY AT EMPIRE CITY. AUG. 23. CLEAR TRACK FAST.

*Indicates Empire track.
*67 FIRST RACE—Maiden, two-year-olds. Time—1:01.35. Post time, 2:24. Off. 2:31. Start good. Won easily. Place same. Index. Starters. Wts. 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